

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 9, 12, 13 and 16 as follows:

Claims 1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A hydrogen-occlusion alloy regenerating apparatus comprising a deterioration detecting means for sending a detection signal when a hydrogen-occlusion alloy filled in a hydrogen reservoir and capable of occluding and releasing hydrogen has been deteriorated due to the deposition of impurities, remaining amount detecting means for detecting a remaining amount of hydrogen occluded in the hydrogen-occlusion alloy and for sending a detection signal when an internal pressure of said hydrogen reservoir caused by a released hydrogen corresponding to the hydrogen remaining in the hydrogen-occlusion alloy falls below a predetermined pressure, and heating means for heating the hydrogen-occlusion alloy up to a temperature that is higher than a temperature for normal releasing of the hydrogen, to remove the impurities by the released hydrogen, based on both of the detection signals signal from the remaining amount detecting means indicative of the internal pressure of the hydrogen reservoir being below said predetermined pressure and the detection signal from the deterioration detecting means indicative of the hydrogen-occlusion alloy having been deteriorated.

10. (Previously Presented) A hydrogen-occlusion alloy regenerating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said deterioration detecting means detects an amount of hydrogen occluded in said hydrogen-occlusion alloy, and sends the detection signal if the amount of hydrogen

occluded is smaller than an amount of hydrogen occluded when the hydrogen-occlusion alloy is normal.

11. (Previously Presented) A hydrogen-occlusion alloy regenerating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said deterioration detecting means detects a rate of occlusion of hydrogen in said hydrogen-occlusion alloy, and sends the detection signal when the hydrogen-occlusion rate is lower than a hydrogen-occlusion rate provided when the hydrogen-occlusion alloy is normal.

12. (Currently Amended) A hydrogen-occlusion alloy regenerating apparatus for use in a fuel cell power generating system, the fuel cell power generating system including a reformer for producing a reformed gas containing hydrogen from a starting fuel, a fuel cell supplied with said reformed gas, a hydrogen reservoir containing a hydrogen-occlusion alloy capable of occluding and releasing the hydrogen in said reformed gas, and supplying the hydrogen released from said hydrogen-occlusion alloy to said fuel cell,

wherein said hydrogen-occlusion alloy regenerating apparatus comprises a deterioration detecting means for sending a detection signal when said hydrogen-occlusion alloy has been deteriorated due to the deposition of impurities in said reformed gas, remaining amount detecting means for detecting a remaining amount of hydrogen occluded in the hydrogen-occlusion alloy and for sending a detection signal when an internal pressure of said hydrogen reservoir caused by the released hydrogen corresponding to the hydrogen remaining in the hydrogen-occlusion alloy falls below a predetermined pressure, and a heating means for heating the hydrogen-occlusion alloy up to a temperature that is higher than a temperature for normal releasing of the hydrogen, to remove the impurities by the

released hydrogen, based on both of the detection signals signal from the remaining amount detecting means indicative of the internal pressure of the hydrogen reservoir being blow said predetermined pressure and the detection signal from the deterioration detecting means indicative of the hydrogen-occlusion alloy having been deteriorated.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of regenerating a hydrogen-occlusion alloy comprising the steps of: generating a deterioration detection signal when a hydrogen-occlusion alloy filled in a hydrogen reservoir and capable of occluding and releasing hydrogen has been deteriorated due to the deposition of impurities; detecting a remaining amount of hydrogen occluded in the hydrogen-occlusion alloy and generating a remaining amount detection signal when an internal pressure of said hydrogen reservoir caused by a released hydrogen corresponding to the hydrogen remaining in the hydrogen-occlusion alloy falls below a predetermined pressure; and heating the hydrogen-occlusion alloy up to a temperature that is higher than a temperature for normal releasing of the hydrogen, to remove the impurities by the released hydrogen, based on both the deterioration detection signal indicative of the hydrogen-occlusion alloy having been deteriorated and the remaining amount detection signal indicative of the internal pressure of the hydrogen reservoir being below said predetermined pressure.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of regenerating a hydrogen-occlusion alloy according to claim 13, wherein said deterioration detection signal is generated when an amount of hydrogen occluded in said hydrogen-occlusion alloy is detected to be smaller than an amount of hydrogen occluded when the hydrogen-occlusion alloy is normal.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of regenerating a hydrogen-occlusion alloy according to claim 13, wherein said deterioration detection signal is generated when a rate of occlusion of hydrogen in said hydrogen-occlusion alloy is detected to be lower than a hydrogen-occlusion rate provided when the hydrogen-occlusion alloy is normal.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of regenerating a hydrogen-occlusion alloy in a fuel cell power generating system, the fuel cell power generating system including a reformer for producing a reformed gas containing hydrogen from a starting fuel, a fuel cell supplied with said reformed gas, a hydrogen reservoir containing a hydrogen-occlusion alloy capable of occluding and releasing the hydrogen in said reformed gas, and supplying the hydrogen released from said hydrogen-occlusion alloy to said fuel cell,

the method comprising the steps of: generating a deterioration detection signal when said hydrogen-occlusion alloy has been deteriorated due to the deposition of impurities in said reformed gas; detecting a remaining amount of hydrogen occluded in the hydrogen-occlusion alloy and generating a remaining amount detection signal when an internal pressure of said hydrogen reservoir caused by the released hydrogen corresponding to the hydrogen remaining in the hydrogen-occlusion alloy falls below a predetermined pressure; and heating the hydrogen-occlusion alloy up to a temperature that is higher than a temperature for normal releasing of the hydrogen, to remove the impurities by the released hydrogen, based on both the deterioration detection signal indicative of the hydrogen-occlusion alloy having been deteriorated and the remaining amount detection signal indicative of the internal pressure of the hydrogen reservoir being below said predetermined pressure.

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17. (Previously Presented) A hydrogen-occlusion alloy regenerating method according to claim 16, wherein the hydrogen released from said hydrogen-occlusion alloy is utilized for operating said fuel cell.